

THE GATEWAY



volume CI election special • the official student newspaper at the university of alberta • www.thegatewayonline.ca • friday, march 11, 2011

CAMPUS TIGHES THE KNOT

VPSL elected as SU President

FULL
RESULTS
FOR SU AND
GSA INSIDE



THE GATEWAY

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colophon

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contributors

Ross Vincent, Ryan Bromsgrove, April Hudson, Sam Brooks

Fall Reading Week referenda wins support

MATT HIRJI
Sports Editor

The University of Alberta Students' Union has received a motion of confidence to advocate for the implementation of a Fall Reading Week.

The plebiscite question — which proposed starting the semester before Labour Day to account for extra instructional days off during the Remembrance Day long weekend — received a 55 per cent majority in this week's Students' Union elections. The result allows the Students' Union to leverage support as they move forward with their negotiations with the university's administration to institute the Fall Reading Week.

Current SU President Nick Dehod, who has been an active proponent for the fall reading week since his election last year, had mixed feelings about the result.

"I'm happy that we've got a response from students. This actually matches up with the response that we received in the [undergraduate] student survey data. It's clear that this is something that students want. But it also gives us the sense that we need to look into it a little bit more," Dehod said.

The first-semester reading week still has plenty of hurdles to overcome before it can be implemented on campus. With only a 15.8 percent voter turnout in the election and a narrow victory in the plebiscite, the opportunity for the Students' Union to use the support to expedite negotiations with the administration has taken a hit.



JUSTIN BELL

HEARING THE STUDENT VOICE Dehod initiated the plebiscite to learn student opinion on the Fall Reading Week.

Dehod also admitted that the narrow margin of victory may highlight the complicated nature of implementing the break. Issues surrounding loss of summer incomes and complications surrounding student housing are concerns that will need to be addressed as the SU continues its investigation into the possibility of a Fall Reading Week.

"If we can't deal with the concerns that have been raised, we are going to have to look at some other options. That will be a little bit longer of a conversation. What's important to keep in mind is that in other institutions, this conversation has taken 10 years," Dehod said.

But Dehod, whose term as President ends in a few months, remains optimis-

tic that the reading week will become instituted on campus in the future. With an incoming executive that seems interested in the idea, Dehod said that the plebiscite's data will go a long way to developing a reading week.

"If you look at the platforms of Rory Tighe and Vice President (Academic) Emerson Csorba, they are both really interested in pursuing the Fall Reading Week. We know that this is something that students want. I think that we have enough data that they can move forward and have more conversations about it. I'm hoping that with this information, we can start looking at other options with the university so that we can have an answer for students in the next couple years."

Mirroring the sentiments of Dehod, SU President-elect Rory Tighe said that, based on the positive results of the referendum, he'll continue to fine-tune the Fall Reading Week idea while lobbying the university administration so that the reading week can come to fruition.

"It's something that students are really interested in pursuing based on [...] the results that we got, so it'll be really interesting to look at how we can best pursue this," Tighe said. "I think 55 per cent is a result where students are in favour of this, but they're not quite sure how they feel about this exact proposal. So it'll be a really good opportunity to look at other proposals on how to make this week happen."

STREETERS
election nightAs you may be aware, almost every race was uncontested this year.
Why didn't you run?**Kim Ferguson**
Science
Councillor**Adam Woods**
Arts I**Jaiman Chin**
Former Vice
President
(Operations and
Finance)**Tim Ira**
Education V

Well, I didn't run mostly because one, I have a lot of courses to fulfill in the year, and second, I didn't feel that I was the best material to be an executive candidate at the moment. Maybe if I had more time to become more familiar with specific portfolios, I would be better for that position. But now, in the best interests of the union, I didn't run for a position.

I'm young and I need a little bit more experience. One day maybe, but not right now.

I don't have a big enough ego.

I actually work with the Students' Union; I'm an assistant manager, so I would have to give up my job. Which I get paid equally for as an exec.

STUDENTS' UNION QUIPS

"I THINK WE'VE GOT A BIG FIGHT AHEAD OF US, BUT I THINK I'M READY FOR IT."
- JAMES EASTHAM, VICE PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

GATEWAY NEWS: ready for anything since 1910

News Meetings Fridays at 3 p.m. on the third floor of SUB

Tighe new SU president

Leader “excited” to work with incoming executive team on engagement

ALEXANDRIA ELDRIDGE
Senior News Editor

The Students’ Union has a new president-elect after election results were announced Thursday night, with an overwhelming victory for the sole candidate, Rory Tighe.

Tighe received 2,996 votes of 4,364 votes, 69 per cent of the vote in the presidential race. Coming in second was joke candidate Dr. Horrible, with 800 votes or 18 per cent, and 568 votes or 13 per cent, were for none of the above. Tighe won in the first round of balloting.

“This year, there was a lot of interesting conversation about [how] we need to engage more students [...] so I’m really excited to get that started.”

RORY TIGHE
STUDENTS’ UNION PRESIDENT-ELECT

“It’s amazing. It feels really, really good. Right away, I’m ready to work really hard,” Tighe said shortly after his victory. “This year, there was a lot of interesting conversation about [how] we need to engage more students and I think that was something that all the candidates had, so I’m really excited to get that started.”

Tighe said that although many of the races were uncontested, he was extremely excited about his executive team for next year.

“It was really too bad that all the races were uncontested, but I’m happy to say — and I can completely confidently say — I’m excited to work with everyone who won. So I’m definitely excited for the year,” he said.

Tighe said engagement and involvement were things he was most looking forward to getting started on, and felt that the SU would accomplish this under his leadership.

“As cliché as it sounds, I’m really excited about getting more students involved. I think every candidate on stage had their own ideas about how to get students involved and their own initiatives, so I think that’s one thing that the SU is really going to excel at this year.”



MATT HIRJI

BAITED BREATH Tighe awaits the results announcement Thursday night.

Tighe also said he doesn’t think the problem they saw this election — with almost every race uncontested — would be a issue again next year if he succeeded at his goal. Total voter turnout this year was 15.9 per cent, down from 21.5 per cent last year. The total number of votes cast was 4,582.







“I don’t think this election will happen again next year. I think there will be a lot more involvement next year and I think that people are going to be more excited and I think that everyone is excited to work on that,” he said. “I really hope that students [...] let me know exactly what they’re looking for next year.”

BY THE NUMBERS

A roundup of SU election stats

- 4,582** Total ballots cast
- 650** Ballots cast at official polling stations
- 3,932** Ballots cast elsewhere
- 15.9%** Total voter turnout
- 22.3%** Turnout from most active faculty (Faculté Saint-Jean)
- 6.5%** Turnout from least active faculty (Faculty of Medicine)
- 545** Votes cast during the election’s busiest hour (10 a.m. Wednesday)
- \$637.81** Cost of most expensive campaign (Fall Reading Week)
- \$165.17** Cost of least expensive campaign (Godzilla)
- \$40** Total cost of fines levied by the CRO
- 1** Number of CRO rulings
- 3** Number of DIE Board rulings during the election
- 1** Number of electoral officials who resigned by the end of the election
- ∞** Number of hours the Deputy News Editor spent in DIE Board/CAC meetings during the election
- 59** Number of Twitter users following @votewithpecker

Figures are accurate as of March 10, 2011, and aren’t officially confirmed by the Elections Office

SUvotew2011 SU ELECTION RESULTS					
					
Rory Tighe PRESIDENT	Emerson Csorba VP (ACADEMIC)	Andy Cheema VP (OPS-FI)	Farid Iskandar VP (EXTERNAL)	POSTPONED VP (STUDENT LIFE)	Raphael Lepage Fortin BOARD OF GOVERNORS REP
VICTORY IN ONE ROUND 2,996 votes received out of 4,364 votes cast (69%)	VICTORY IN ONE ROUND 3,344 votes received out of 4,279 votes cast (78%)	VICTORY IN ONE ROUND 3,424 votes received out of 4,268 votes cast (80%)	VICTORY IN ONE ROUND 2,448 votes received out of 4,285 votes cast (57%)	This race has been postponed after a DIE Board ruling Wednesday night. See story on page 4 for details	VICTORY IN ONE ROUND 3,152 votes received out of 4,252 votes cast (74%)

Uncontested executives, BoG Rep win over NOTA

GATEWAY NEWS STAFF

After running uncontested campaigns to lead next year's Students' Union, three candidates for the Vice President positions, along with the candidate for Board of Governors Representative, celebrated victories in their respective positions when the election results were revealed on Thursday night.

Emerson Csorba claimed the position of Vice President (Academic) with 3,344 votes, or 78 per cent.

"I'm pretty content. I put in a lot of effort during this race, and my goal was to make the race seem like I was contested. I put in the effort to think like I was running against someone in the race," Csorba said.

"I think it was unfortunate to see so few candidates run. I'm very optimistic that this will reverse next year."

ANDY CHEEMA

VICE PRESIDENT (OPERATIONS AND FINANCE) ELECT

"I tried to ignore the fact that I was uncontested, and think that I was going up against a really strong contestant — someone like Rory. So that would push me every single day, and I had the mentality that I was always 100 votes behind."

Raphael Lepage Fortin, the sole candidate for BoG Representative, defied critics of his campaign by earning 74 per cent of the vote against None of the Above.

"I was really scared because I know there were negative things that were being said, and I'm so glad it turned out the way it did."

Lepage Fortin said he was grateful that those critical of his campaign still took the time to vote, noting that the controversy may have helped raise the profile of his candidacy.

"As much as [my posters] looked like a joke, it got people's attention," Lepage Fortin said. "Another thing that really helped was the fact that I wasn't competing against too much, so I only had to appeal my own image and just live out through the week. It is mental torture going through campaigning."

Newly elected Vice President (External) Farid Iskandar won with 57 per cent of votes, beating out joke candidate Godzilla, who received 28 per cent.

"Profs at universities are not very nice," Iskandar said of his experience during the election. "And campaigning is the best and most horrible experience together in one."

His opponent, Godzilla, was disappointed by the loss, but not discouraged.

"Usually, this is the point where Godzilla slinks off into the water to be seen in the future, so I'm not worried about it. I'll be back," he said.

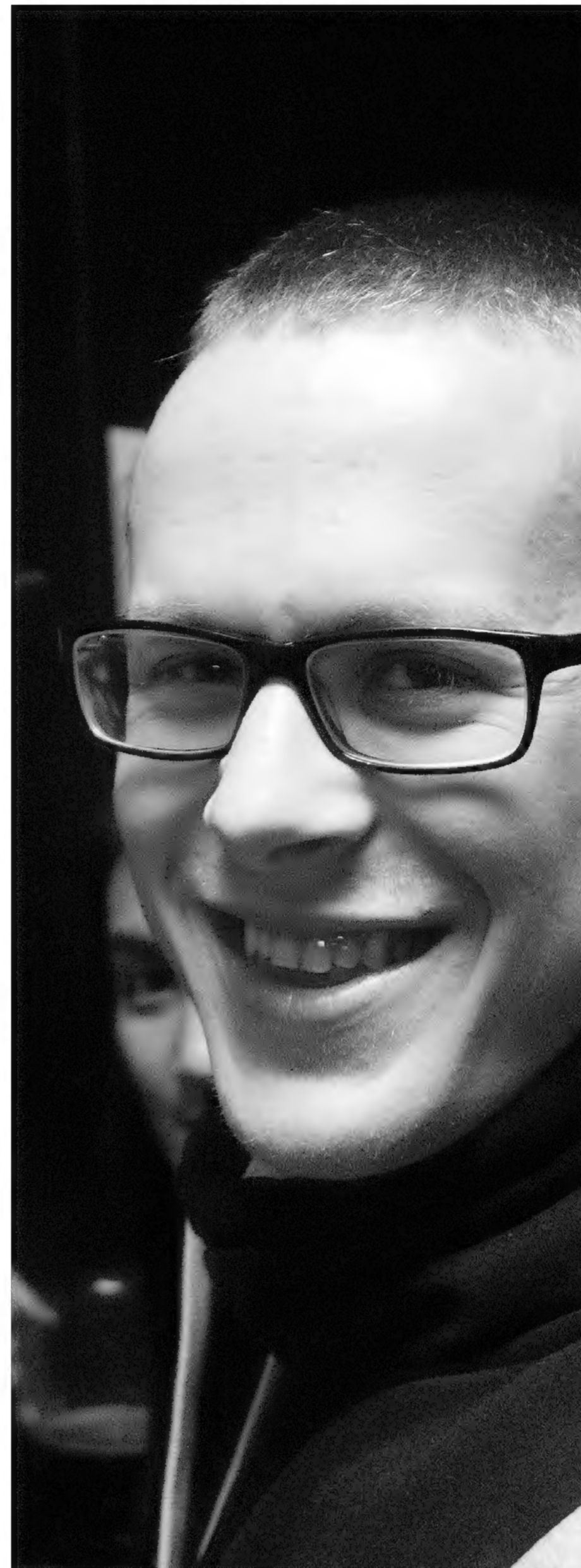
Andy Cheema, the only candidate for Vice-President (Operations and Finance), secured an uncontested win with 3,424 votes, or 80 per cent.

"My campaign was well organized," Cheema said. "I can't take credit for that personally; I have to give that to my campaign manager. He did an amazing job organizing the materials, the volunteers, helping me with the speeches, helping me with everything."

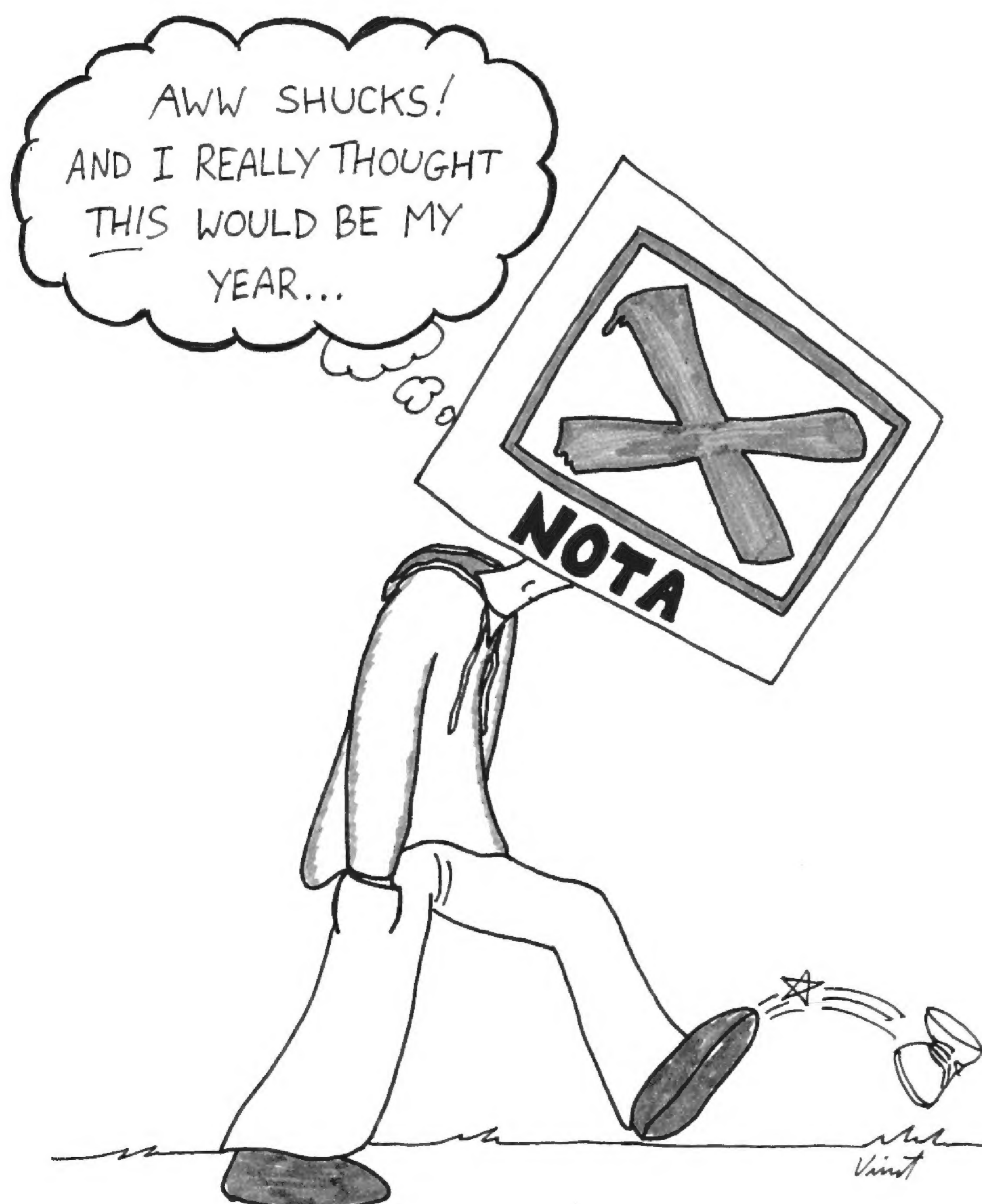
Although excited about winning, Cheema also expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of candidates running for SU positions.

"Typically, Operations and Finance is uncontested, so I don't think this year was any different for my position," he said. "But I think it was an anomaly for the other races. I think it was unfortunate to see so few candidates run. I'm very optimistic that this will reverse next year."

The only contested race in the election, for the position of Vice President (Student Life), was cancelled Wednesday night after a ruling by the Discipline, Interpretation, and Enforcement Board. This election will be taking place at a date still to be determined.



DAN MCKECHNIE



ROSS VINCENT

Unofficial results for VPSL race sealed

SIMON YACKULIC
Deputy News Editor

While other candidates were celebrating as results were read out Thursday night, the two candidates for Vice President (Student Life) will have to wait a while longer for students to decide their fates after the Student Life race was cancelled.

While students were still able to vote for a candidate in the Student Life race on Thursday — despite the decision on Wednesday by the Discipline, Interpretation, and Enforcement (DIE) Board to cancel the race — the DIE Board has ordered the results "sealed."

"The DIE Board has determined that the election results with respect to the VPSL race will be sealed. This is to ensure that any future election is not biased," Chief Tribune Megan Mickalyk explained in an email.

The DIE Board sent out a written, informal decision Thursday dealing with how the Student Life race would proceed, and clarified the verbal ruling that the board had given Wednesday dealing with an email sent out by candidate David McBean that his opponent Colten Yamagishi felt provided an unfair advantage.

"We do not find it appropriate to punish candidate McBean for any contravention when he was clearly told several times by the CRO that he could send out the email," the board explained. "Ultimately, these results have tainted this election [and] we find that the only appropriate resolution is to quash the election and order a new one."

The board ordered a new election for the Student Life race be conducted under the SU's existing by-election provisions so as to give the proceedings "democratic legitimacy." However, the board did add a provision ensuring that the new election is strictly between Yamagishi and McBean, and not open to new candidates.

The two affected candidates disagreed on the board's decision to seal the results — McBean called the board's decision fair and said he was getting ready for the new election.

"I'm getting pumped again," McBean said. "I'm 100 per cent ready; let's do this."

Yamagishi, however, explained that while he felt keeping the race between himself and McBean was fair, the results still should have been released.

"DIE Board has made their decision, and I'm ready to compete. What I need to do from here is forget the past and look to the future and run the most successful campaign possible."

As for finding a Chief Returning Officer to run the new election after the resignation of the previous CRO Jaskaran Singh, the Council Administrative Committee is requesting applications for the position, with a deadline of this coming Monday at noon. Two DIE Board tribunes will make up the selection panel to choose the new CRO, and their choice will then be sent to Students' Council to ratify the selection on Tuesday.

The new CRO will decide the timing of the new VPSL election, with direction from the DIE Board.

Coulthard wins second terms as GSA President

JUSTIN BELL
Managing Editor

Roy Coulthard won a second term as the Graduate Students' Association president Thursday night, giving him a chance to come back and follow through on a number of initiatives he started this year.

The results were announced last night at the GSA Awards Night. Coulthard said he would be starting with the new executive team tomorrow.

"It's kind of cool getting elected for a second term," Coulthard said. "I think it's going to be a good year."

What he's planning includes working more closely with graduate students' faculty associations, part of his election platform. He'll also start working to transition his new executive team, with two new executives coming into the GSA this year.

"It's going to be an interesting experience. Over the past year, with some of the stuff we've done, neither Student Life nor Student Services portfolios will look exactly like they did last year."

The VP (Student Life) portfolio has been moving more towards student group support, while the VP (Student Services) has been dealing more with university student services, rather than internal programs.

Turnout at the GSA elections hit a mere five per cent this year, which Coulthard called "not too much of a surprise." But he said there were highlights to the election cycle for the GSA.

Rather than run an election forum, the association chose to upload YouTube videos of all the candidates. Some of the videos had as many as 380 views, while the forums had abysmal turnout in the past, according to Coulthard.

"Historically, we have had very



DAN MCKECHNIE

ROUND TWO Coulthard won a second term as GSA President.

poor voter turnout. But I am quite enthused that our YouTube election forum got at many hits as it did."

The low turnout also came as no surprise to GSA Chief Returning Officer Sarah Barnes.

"People are busy, people are apathetic," said Barnes. "Voter turnout has always been low across the

country. I think grad students are very busy people, and it's hard to get them engaged. They have no time."

Barnes pointed out that turnout in civic, provincial, and federal elections are also seeing lower turnout. But she added that graduate students have many special considerations such as a heavy academic load.

GSAVote 2011		GSA ELECTION RESULTS	
			
Roy Coulthard PRESIDENT	Nima Yousefi VP (ACADEMIC)	Hillary Sparkes VP (STUDENT LIFE)	
57.54% of the vote	63.09% of the vote	91.58% of the vote	
			
Tamara Korassa VP (LABOUR)	Sagar Lunawat VP (STUDENT SERVICES)		
88.39% of the vote	83.72% of the vote		

Three Lines Free!

Got something hilarious you'd like to say? Want to talk about a missed romantic connection? **Recite shitty poetry?** Bitch at your pain-in-the-ass roommate in secret? **Gripe about the class you're in at the moment?** Take potshots at your bus driver? **Complain about not getting laid?** Or got something else on your mind?

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"Arguments are extremely vulgar, for everyone in good society holds exactly the same opinion."
- OSCAR WILDE

GATEWAY OPINION
Practically obscene since 1910.
Opinion meetings Thursdays at 5 p.m. in SUB 3-04.

Slate prevails on GSA election night

“Fantastic Four” candidates for President, VP (Labour), VP (Student Life), and VP (Academic) sweep election

GATEWAY NEWS STAFF

The week-long voting period for the Graduate Student Association's executive committee came to an end Thursday night, as a slate took four out of the five available GSA executive positions.

Newly elected Vice President (Academic) Nima Yousefi, who was on the executive last year as Vice President (Student Services), received 63.09 per cent of the vote. He said he intends to keep the promises he made during campaigning.

“I feel very responsible to hold to the promises I had,” he said. “[I plan to] do my best to improve the academic environment for grad students and make that better for them.”

Andy Rathbone, Yousefi's fellow slate candidate, received 31.97 per cent of the vote, while None of the Above received 4.94 per cent. Rathbone said he hopes students heard his ideas, and felt that Yousefi had an advantage in the race due to his previous experience on the executive.

“It's certainly an advantage to be on the existing administration. I hope graduate students take the issues I raised seriously,” Rathbone said.

Vice President (Labour) elect Tamara Korassa, the only candidate on the ballot, was re-elected to the position, receiving 88.39 per cent of the vote, while None of the Above received 11.61 per cent. Korassa came into the year halfway through, and says she is excited to continue her projects.

“This last year I came on, and I'm really glad that now this validation is in there. I think it shows people feel confident in the leadership I've given so far. This year, we're conducting a review of graduate student funding, and I'm taking the lead on that. I'm really excited.”

In the uncontested race for the Vice President (Student Services), Sagar Lunawat came away with a strong victory.

Lunawat won 84 per cent of the votes, with only 16 per cent of voters choosing None of the Above.

Going into his term, Lunawat is going to be focusing on implementing the spring/summer U-Pass, and starting up a “campus council.”

“There are various cultural groups [on campus], and I will be forming a campus council and dealing with funding to various groups,” he said.

GSA executive elections are self-funded and Lunawat came in with the lowest election expenses of the campaign. He spent a mere \$1.75 on campaign posters, an attempt by Lunawat to avoid adverse environmental impacts caused by printing.

As for the race for Vice President (Student Life), Hillary Sparkes won with 91.58 per cent of the vote after opponent Azizul Hoque claims that he withdrew from the race for what he called “family reasons.”

However, according to GSA Chief Returning Officer Sarah Barnes, Hoque was disqualified from the race on March 1.

“Hoque was disqualified for not getting approval for his campaign materials on multiple occasions,” she said.

Yousefi, Korassa, Sparkes, and incoming President Roy Coulthard ran as a slate entitled “The Fantastic Four” and spent a total of \$23.65 on their campaign, which went towards printing handbills. Total voter turnout for the election was five per cent.



DAN MCKECHNIE

ENTRIES DUE TODAY!

**PRIZES! FAME!
NOT SO MUCH
FORTUNE!
BUT PRIZES!**

We're holding a contest devoted to finding the best short fiction and photography that students on this campus have to offer. This contest is open to any U of A student who's decent at prose or can click a picture, and who isn't already a Gateway volunteer. Winners will have their entries published in a late March issue of the Gateway, and there'll even be some awesome prizes to be given away.

Entries will be judged on both creativity and style by a panel of editors. Submissions must be original and must not have been published elsewhere. **Please submit entries to literarycontest@gateway.ualberta.ca with the subject head "Gateway Literary Contest."** and the category you're entering. Please include your name, program, and year with your entry. Contestants may only enter each category once.

THE GATEWAY





PHOTOS BY
Justin Bell
Matt Hirji
Dan McKechnie

STUDENTS' COUNCIL & GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL ELECTION

STEP UP AND TAKE A SEAT!

If you're involved with the University community, or are interested in student politics, you should consider running to be a councilor. If you're interested in how your school operates and care about the undergraduate student experience, visit the Information for Candidates page on our website.

RUN FOR A COUNCIL SEAT

NOMINATION PACKAGES NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE AND IN SUB 2-900



STUDENTS' COUNCIL

Students' Council is the highest governing body of the Students' Union. It consists of 38 voting members, including the Executive Committee, the Board of Governors Representative, and 32 faculty-specific representatives. Students' Council deals with matters affecting the Students' Union and undergraduate student body, such as the Health and Dental Plan, SUB renovations, and Beartracks upgrades.

GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL

General Faculties Council (GFC) is the legislative body of the University of Alberta that deals with all academic matters and student affairs issues. It is comprised of 152 members—40 of whom are students—and has overseen the development of the University's Academic Plan, the use of technology on campus, on the approval of the U of A budget process principles.

NOMINATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 14TH AT 5:00PM

Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences 1 Students' Council Seat 2 GFC Seats	Education 3 Students' Council Seats 4 GFC Seats	Native Studies 1 Students' Council Seat 1 GFC Seat	Pharmacy 1 Students' Council Seat 1 GFC Seat
Arts 6 Students' Council Seats 8 GFC Seats	Engineering 4 Students' Council Seats 5 GFC Seats	Nursing 1 Students' Council Seat 2 GFC Seats	Faculté St. Jean 1 Students' Council Seat 1 GFC Seat
Augustana 1 Students' Council Seat 1 GFC Seat	Law 1 Students' Council Seat 1 GFC Seat	Open Studies 1 Students' Council Seat	Science 7 Students' Council Seats 8 GFC Seats
Business 2 Students' Council Seats 3 GFC Seats	Medicine & Dentistry 1 Students' Council Seat 2 GFC Seats	Physical Education & Recreation 1 Students' Council Seat 1 GFC Seat	 


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